Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for storing values of a range block and of seven isometries used in a fractal image compression method, comprising using only four memory areas of identical sizes in which are respectively stored an identity, and three first isometries corresponding to isometries of symmetry with respect to a vertical axis, ~~of a~~ 270° rotation, and ~~of a~~ 90° rotation.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising reading from the memory areas, wherein each memory area is addressed in a first direction for a reading of ~~the~~ stored values to obtain the identity and the first three isometries, and in a reverse direction for a reading of ~~the~~ four other isometries of symmetry with respect to a horizontal axis, ~~of a~~ 180° rotation, ~~of symmetry with respect to~~ a first diagonal, and ~~of symmetry with respect to~~ a second diagonal.

3.   (Currently Amended) A fractal image compression method using a range block and seven isometries of this block, the method comprising:

~~memorizing~~ storing in memory respective values of ~~the~~ pixels of the range block and of only three of its isometries; and

addressing corresponding memory areas of said memory in read mode in one direction or in a reverse direction according to a desired isometry.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein two isometries of the range block are stored in a same memory area.

5.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a circuit ~~for addressing~~to address a memory ~~of storage of~~adapted to store an image data range block ~~intended to be used~~usable in a fractal image compression method, the circuit ~~including means for addressing~~being adapted to address each of four areas of said memory in a first direction and in a reverse direction.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

obtaining a reference block of pixels from an image;

performing transformation on the reference block to obtain a plurality of isometries corresponding to isometries of symmetry with respect to at least one axis and with respect to at least one rotation of the reference block; and

storing values representative of the reference block and values representative of the isometries, said storing including respectively storing said values representative of the reference block and said values, which are representative of three of the isometries, in only four memory areas.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein storing the values representative of the reference block and of the isometries includes storing these values in memory areas of identical sizes.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein performing transformation on the reference block to obtain the plurality of isometries includes obtaining the isometries of symmetry with respect to a vertical axis, a 270° rotation, and a 90° rotation.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein performing transformation on the reference block to obtain the plurality of isometries further includes obtaining the isometries of symmetry with respect to a horizontal axis, a 180° rotation, a first diagonal, and a second diagonal.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

reading a memory area, in a first direction, having stored therein the values representative of the reference block and values representative of the isometries of symmetry with respect to the vertical axis, the 270° rotation, and the 90° rotation; and

reading the memory area, in a second direction different from the first direction, having stored therein the values representative of the isometries of symmetry with respect to the horizontal axis, the 180° rotation, the first diagonal, and the second diagonal.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein reading the memory area in the second direction includes reading the memory area in a reverse direction relative to the first direction.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~storing values representative of the isometries~~ said using four memory areas includes storing at least two of the isometries in a same memory area.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising reading particular ones of the memory ~~area~~areas, having values stored therein, in a forward direction or in a reverse direction according to an isometry that is to be compared with a domain block of pixels of the image.

14.   (New) The method of claim 3 wherein said addressing in said reverse direction includes reading four other isometries.

15.   (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said four other isometries include isometries of symmetry with respect to a horizontal axis, a 180° rotation, a first diagonal, and a second diagonal.

16.   (New)   The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising said memory, wherein two isometries of the range block are stored in a same memory area of said memory.

17.   (New) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said circuit is adapted to read in said first direction three isometries corresponding to isometries of symmetry with respect to a vertical axis, a 270° rotation, and a 90° rotation, and wherein said circuit is adapted to read in said reverse direction four other isometries corresponding to isometries of symmetry with respect to a horizontal axis, a 180° rotation, a first diagonal, and a second diagonal.